GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:485
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007
FREE AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION
Annayyagari Shri Sai Prathap;Murmu Shri Hemlal;Ramadass Prof. M

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance to the State Governments for providing free and compulsory education to all children under the age of 14 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this issue has been discussed in the high level group meeting recently;

(d) if so,the details of the outcome of the meeting; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide free education to all the children under the age of 14 years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a)to(e) State Governments are already being provided financial assistance under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-Day Meal Scheme and other relevant schemes of the Government to fulfill the objectives of Universalization of Elementary Education. A draft Model Right to Education Bill spelling out the broad parameters and features for achieving the Constitutional mandate of free and compulsory education was drafted and circulated as framework to the States/UTs with a view to seek their comments thereon. In view of the objections raised and strong reservation expressed by various States/UTs, the meeting of the High Level Group (HLG) comprising Minister of Human Resource Development, Finance Minister, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chairman of the Prime Minister`s Economic Advisory Council was held on 6th November, 2007 to examine the issues involved and advise the Government on how best to take the matter forward with a view to fulfill the commitment of the Government to facilitate the enactment of an appropriate Law that would enable the realization of making education a Fundamental Right as required by the Constitution. The Central Government has in the last three years significantly enhanced the budgetary allocations to State Governments as part of its commitment towards Universalization of Elementary Education.